

ENGL 7805/8805: Foundations of Writing Studies
Spring 2016
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COURSE CATALOG DESCRIPTION

A multidisciplinary exploration of the purposes, technologies, and contexts for written communication.

EXTENDED COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course outlines the emergence and histories of professional writing and composition studies as academic disciplines. It surveys the range of prior research and research possibilities associated with writing studies, and explores the common and divergent concerns and activities of scholars, teachers, and practitioners in professional writing and composition studies. The multidimensionality of writing and its significance in an array of public and professional environments are emphasized. Topics include writing in society, writing in the workplace, writing in academic institutions, and writing and the individual.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this course, students should be able to:

- Develop informed definitions of and engage in scholarly discussion about such terms as “writing studies,” “technical and professional writing,” “rhetoric,” “composition studies,” “academic discourse,” and related concepts.
- Discuss theories and recognize possibilities for researching writing in a range of professional, academic, and/or personal settings.
- Identify commonalities and distinctions between the disciplinary concerns of composition studies and professional writing and describe their historical emergence and institutional contexts.

REQUIRED TEXT

Bazerman, Charles, ed. *Handbook for Research on Writing: History, Society, School, Individual, Text*. Boston: Bedford, St. Martins, 2008. ISBN 978-0-8058-4870-0

Multiple formats of this book, in a wide price range, are available online.

Other readings assigned throughout the semester